THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) There is no proposal to set up a refinery at "Panna-Mukta" site or by this name.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have decided to disinvest 33.58% of the equity in IBP Company Limited to a strategic investor.

Upgradation of petrol stations by Oil Companies

3182. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the efforts made by public sector oil companies to upgrade the petrol stations, in order to compete with private dealers like Reliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): In order to face the competition from the Private Sector Oil Companies in the liberalised scenario, the Public Sector Oil Companies have taken various steps, including the following, to upgrade facilities in their retail outlets:—

(i) Ensuring availability of basic facilities such as free air, drinking water, toilets, etc.

(ii) Giving a facelift to the retail outlets by providing better illumination through improved yard lighting, improving the driveways, providing canopies with backlit facia, false ceilings, lighting, etc.

(iii) Provision of value-added facilities at selected retail outlets for improved customer services such as Convenience Stores, ATMs, Cyber Cafes, etc.

(iv) Selective installation of multi-product pumps, pre-mix pumps and digital air inflators.

(v) Implementation of quality and quantity assurance scheme.

(vi) Intensive Training Programme for Company Officers and dealers.

Customer contact programme for enhancing customer loyalty.

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Payment of Royalty to Gujarat

3183. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the rate of royalty on crude oil for Gujarat for the block 1996-1999 and 1999-2002;

(b) if not, by when it is to be finalized; and

(c) what is the amount due, to be paid to Gujarat from 1991 to 2000 as per the rates already finalized for earlier blocks and for the blocks 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Royalty on crude oil is one of the sources of revenue to oil producing States, including the State of Gujarat. Rates of royalty are notified by Central Government in accordance with Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time. For the period 1996-98, the present provisional rate of royalty will be substituted by another rate on finalisation of the crude prices for the period, which would be done on receipt of audited figures on cost of production from Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). For the period, 1.4.1998 onwards, payments of royalty on crude oil to various State Governments including Gujarat are being made provisionally pending introduction of a new scheme of royalty. The Government have constituted a Committee to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil. The Committee is in the process of finalising its report after consultations with the State Governments and other organisations concerned. Government would take a view after the report of the Committee is received.